

INVENTORY OF SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT IN- TRODUCTION DURING THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1921 (NO. 68; NOS. 53896 TO 54425).

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

Almost every one of the plants described in this inventory opens up a vista of romance to any person who is interested in plants.

We have read these descriptions now for 23 years, and each new inventory brings as we read it new thrills. We want to grow almost every plant and be on hand at its first performance, when it begins to loom up as something of more value to America than a mere curiosity.

If the inventory is read hastily by anyone the effect produced is bewildering, but if the reader will rivet his attention on those plants which particularly strike his fancy he will desire to experiment with some of them. Out of these desires comes the usefulness of these plants to the country. It is beyond the range of human possibility for any one person to test thoroughly very many of these new plants, but if each of our thousands of experimenters makes a home for a few the aggregate of information which will accumulate will be very great indeed.

In singling out for special mention certain of the plants described in this inventory, it should be understood that the writer is merely pointing to those which, from his experience with new foreign plants, strike his fancy and seem to offer more to the experimenter than do others. Among those not mentioned, just as likely as not, are the prize packages of the collection.

The fact that the cost of procuring certain plants is great naturally enhances their value in one's mind. Among those first described here, therefore, as worthy of mention are those collected by our agricultural explorer, Wilson Popenoe, in the back country of Ecuador, more particularly the Chota Valley. Of all the regions visited by him during his years of exploration in Central America and South America, none perhaps has afforded more actual discomfort and danger than this Chota Valley of Ecuador, with its primitive civilization and its malaria-carrying mosquitoes. It is gratifying, therefore, to be able to state that he collected there plant material which to his experienced judgment looks unusually promising. He found a new center of avocado seedlings, which he believes may prove of unusual importance to those who want hardier forms that are as large as fanciers demand. His Tamayo variety